

ResortRoundedUP

A newsletter for the resorts community of
Kosciuszko National Park

dUP 12

ISSUE No 35
SUMMER

Thredbo Valley Track officially Opened

The member for Monaro John Barilaro MP officially opened three Thredbo Valley Track suspension bridges on Saturday 17 November. About 30 people attended the opening including local resort operators, the local mountain biking club, the Geehi Bush Walking Club and the general public. The completion of the bridges has enabled a further 3km of trail to be used from Thredbo Village. In total approximately 8km of trail is now open to the public. The suspension bridges are a key component of the Thredbo Valley Track which when completed will provide a unique visitor experience for both bush walkers and mountain bike riders.

Right: John Barilaro, Member for Monaro and Dave Darlington, NPWS Regional Manager walking across Bridge 1 of the Thredbo Valley Track.

Below: Shared trail from Thredbo Village to Bullocks Flat in Kosciuszko National Park (Photos: Lucy Morrell).



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Big Plans for Mountain Biking



Mountain Biking, Thredbo Village
(Photo: Courtesy of Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd)

Article - reprint of Thredbo Media Release - 22 Oct 2012

Mountain Biking in Thredbo is set to reach new heights in 2013 with more trails, more bikes and plans to create a world class trail network.

Renowned trail designers, World Trail, have commenced work on the new Thredbo mountain bike Concept Plan, that will see Thredbo become one of the country's most iconic mountain bike destinations.

World Trail, are industry leaders in design and construction and are one of the most respected authorities in sustainable trail technology. Director and professional trail designer Glen Jacobs and his team are set to create a network of downhill, cross country and skill based trails utilising a series of natural and man-made features across the village and mountain areas.

Familiar with Thredbo, Jacobs first rode the famous downhill in 1992, he is looking forward to developing the resort trail network. "Thredbo has a history of biking and the potential is limitless. The terrain is exciting with vast open glades, bushland, granite outcrops and spectacular natural features, there is easy chairlift access to the top plus village facilities and a community to boot, it will be incredible. We will be crafting trails to suit recreational riders with climbs, descents and loops that showcase the resort features, an optioned up racing trail grid with wet weather options and iconic downhill products that will all complement the new Thredbo Valley Track. It is exciting times ahead for Australian mountain bikers," said Jacobs.

The Concept Plan that will be a three stage process will be finalised to Thredbo in February with work to commence soon after.

New for this season is establishment of Thredbo MTB, a new business that will operate biking in Thredbo and shape the Snowy Mountains Resort into one of Australia's key mountain biking destinations.

In an exciting move, the experienced downhill duo of Daniel Taliana and Tim Windshuttle, return to run mountain operations after a second season working and racing at Canada's MTB mecca - Whistler Mountain.

South East Mountain Biking's Jane Corben will also be on board to assist with the Thredbo MTB launch and special events. "It's great to see the emphasis this summer is on developing the mountain

biking in Thredbo. The Thredbo trail Concept Plan is integral to the mountains future prosperity," said Ms Corben.

This winter Thredbo launched with the new Thredbo 365 pass, that for the first time incorporates downhill and cross country riding in the annual season ski pass.

Along with the new Thredbo 365 pass, comes a new price structure for casual and first time riders.

Revamped downhill and x-country trails and an upgraded fleet of rental downhill and all mountain bikes, clinics, private tuition and personal guiding are also now available to help maximise the Thredbo mountain bike experience.

This summer will see an array of trails open up for riders of all levels. In particular;

- Stage 1 of the Thredbo Valley Track is now complete with close to eight kilometres of gentle gradient riding on offer. Meandering along the Thredbo River the ride takes in impressive bridge crossings and valley views. This Trail will be officially opened on the opening weekend of the mountain biking season (17-18 Nov).
- The new Kosciuszko Flow Track will be the intermediate alternative to the Thredbo Downhill. This top to bottom gravity flow trail has all the tricky technical features removed and is ideal for those who are comfortable on the bike and are keen to experience the downhill thrill.
- The famous Thredbo Downhill has also been revamped with the addition of new jumps and features.

Thredbo will also host a number of high profile mountain biking events for the countries leading riders:

- Round #5 NSW State Championships 17-18 Nov
- Round #2 National MTB Series Championships 8-10 Feb
- Australian MTB Interschool's 15-17 Mar.

"Mountain Biking is already one of our key summer activities and with the development of new trails and facilities we are really looking to ensuring that everyone from experts to first timers can enjoy some of the longest and most scenic trails in the country," said Angus Thomson, Director of Marketing at Thredbo.



Maranatha Lodge - Greener, Cleaner and Energy Efficient

by Kevin Masters, Maintenance Officer of Maranatha Lodge

Maranatha directors carried out an investigation on the energy alternatives for water heating in the lodge due to the increasing price and short supply of heating oil. The investigation revealed that a noisy oil-fired boiler could be replaced with a LPG gas-fired Rotex water heating system instead. The new Rotex system was installed in October 2011 and has proved to be very cost effective, silent and emits fewer greenhouse gases than the previous system.

As part of the initial investigations into energy alternatives we tried to speak to as many people as possible including other lodge managers and plumbing experts. Virginia Logan, NPWS Environmental Management Officer, suggested undertaking an energy audit through the Office of Environment and Heritage "Energy Efficiency for Small Businesses Program" to identify areas to reduce electricity consumption and to attract a government subsidy to support our project. The audit also identified that guests do not use the boiler for hot water during summer months further supporting the installation of a new water heating system.

Rob Helsby, Director of Snowfield Gas & Plumbing Pty Ltd mentioned the Rotex system, which is used widely across the country in 750 McDonald's outlets and the Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre. The Rotex system has proved to be very cost effective in these locations. On this advice three of the lodge's directors: Mavis Williams, Ian Eddy and Kevin Masters visited the Rotex Factory in Padstow, Sydney to inspect the Rotex units.

The Rotex system consists of a large Rotex 500 litre storage heat exchanger with two stainless steel coils and is gas-fired by two very efficient 32 Q Bosch condensing LPG gas burners. We originally thought that we would convert the existing oil-fired boiler to LPG gas, which required a new burner and a new double-insulated chimney to reduce noise levels. But after seeing the Rotex demonstration, we became aware of the operating efficiencies of Bosch burners that would eliminate the need for a double-insulated chimney. The exhaust gas temperature of the Rotex system is less than a third of oil-fired systems, averaging 55 degrees Centigrade. The Rotex system also uses stainless steel water pipes that separate the incoming domestic water supply and the lodge heating system and eliminate the possibility of the bacterium, Legionella.

The cost of operating the gas fired system is significantly cheaper in energy costs and the maintenance cost per year is reduced by \$1,000. Ian Eddy, Vice President of Maranatha Lodge has been monitoring the energy consumption during the winter of 2012 to identify the energy cost

savings compared to heating oil. I expect in 2013 we will have collected some good data for the Perisher Range Resorts Environmental Management System report and have a better understanding on the actual energy cost savings due to this conversion.

The Rotex system is also now used by summer guests and the electric hot water system eliminated. The Rotex heating is much faster and by eliminating the hot water service we now have more guest space in our lodge.

Elgas is scheduled to connect a reticulated gas system to our lodge this summer. We are currently operating from a bulk supply LPG container. We are looking forward to this installation which will allow us to eliminate the use of LPG gas bottles and thus reduce the health and safety issues associated with manual handling of small gas bottles.

I would like to thank Virginia Logan and Rob Helsby for their support for the Rotex project. If any other lodge directors would like more information or to inspect the installation please contact Kevin Masters on 0409 288 990.



Ian Eddy standing alongside the Rotex demonstration unit.
(Photo: Kevin Masters)

Resorts Environmental Performance Report 2011-12

by Virginia Logan, NPWS Environmental Management Officer

The biosolids from the Perisher Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) are being used as fertiliser in the rehabilitation of degraded rural land off Park. This is one of the many exciting environmental initiatives that have been reported in the recently released NSW Alpine Resorts Environmental Performance Report 2011-12. The report is a collaborative effort between NPWS and the four NSW alpine resorts located in Kosciuszko National Park.

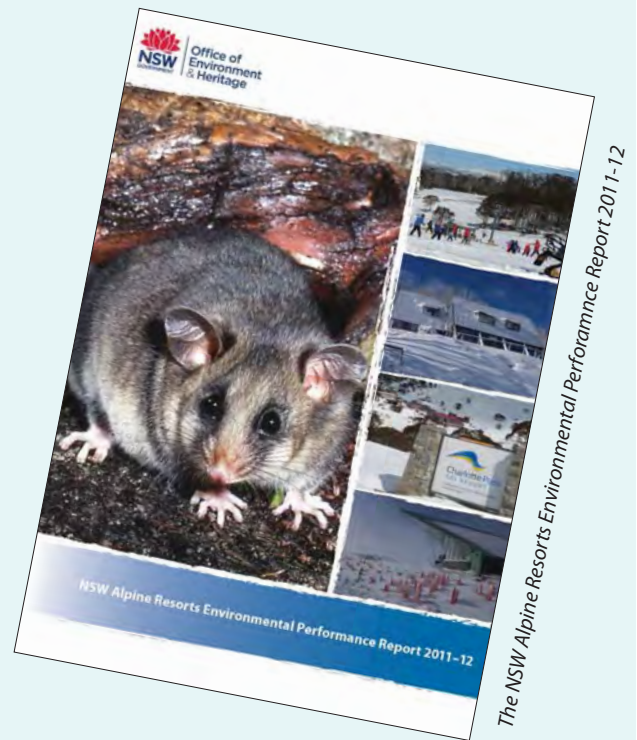
The resorts have adopted nine common objectives that relate to the protection of the core values of the alpine areas. The combined 2011-12 report presents how the resorts are tracking against 33 environmental performance indicators including protection of threatened species, water quality, pollution prevention, energy and water efficiencies and education and awareness.

Performance against 14 of the indicators remained steady and more than half showed a significant improvement over the 12 month reporting period including:

- Substantial investment in automated hydrocarbon loss monitoring systems and environmental management plans for UPSS sites
- Continued improvement in water conservation
- A 3% improvement in waste recycled and a 5% reduction in overall waste generated
- 100% increase in the time spent on weed control
- Continuation of the riparian restoration project in Perisher and Thredbo
- Planting of nearly 5000 trees, shrubs and grasses
- A 16% reduction in electricity consumption
- A large investment in Greenpower and renewable energy and
- The offsetting and sequestering of 2000 tonnes of CO₂.

During the reporting period there were 34 pollution incidents reported across the resorts - 3 were major and 31 were minor. The majority of these incidents have been cleaned up, acted upon and/or used to inform a procedural change. All resorts undertook incident management and response training with staff.

The endangered Mountain Pygmy-possums had been declining at Perisher and Charlotte Pass resorts but due



The NSW Alpine Resorts Environmental Performance Report 2011-12

to enhanced predator control, habitat protection and the favourable weather conditions, an increase was recorded in their populations in 2011-12.

Only one performance indicator showed a significant downward trend during the reporting period – “water quality in alpine streams”. For the most part this decline can be attributed to a huge increase in the average rainfall causing numerous flooding events which resulted in increased turbidity and temporary changes to the biological, chemical and physical parameters of the alpine streams. Management actions in response to this result included improvements or modifications to stormwater infrastructure and maintenance as well as a review of stormwater management plans.

The full report can be viewed at:
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/alpineresorts/NSWARER.htm

renewable energy

Both Perisher and Thredbo resorts are purchasing more renewable energy.

Perisher Resort purchased approximately 700 MWh of Greenpower in 2011-12 which equates to about 5% of the resort's operations for that period, while 11 Perisher lodges purchased 10% to 20% renewable energy from their electricity providers. NPWS also purchases 6% Greenpower for the Perisher STP operations.

Thredbo operated 6 of their major sites on 10% Greenpower and central Spur T-Bars on 100% Greenpower during 2011-12.

There has also been a slight increase in the investment in solar panels on some of the lodges. The solar panels installed on the pumping station at Perisher captured about 11,867 kWh of energy in the 2011-12 reporting period.

Lodges celebrate at the 3rd annual Perisher Range Resorts EMS Commitment Awards



The 2012 PRREMS Environmental Commitment awards were presented as part of the winter opening weekend "Mountains of Music" festivities in Perisher. Andrew Harrigan, Manager of Visitor and Business Services, Kosciuszko National Park along with the Member for Monaro, John Barilaro presented three awards during a break in the music on "The Man From Snowy River" stage.

The awards were initiated three years ago by the PRREMS operational committee to acknowledge the environmental achievements of Perisher Range lodges including outstanding results against industry water and energy use benchmarks as well as the implementation of environmental initiatives.

This years award winners were:

- **Guthega Ski Club**
Resource Efficiency Award for exceeding the resource efficiency targets and achieving outstanding results in water and energy consumption.
- **Maranatha Lodge (Thirroul Ski Club)**
Outstanding Commitment Award for significant effort in implementing "best practice" standards in environmentally sustainable tourism including the implementation of the 2nd stage of a 5 year rehabilitation plan which aims to restore endemic vegetation to the lodge surroundings and active participation in the Office of Environment and Heritage

Sustainability Advantage Program.

- **Peter Prineas**
Environmental Advocate Award in appreciation of his contribution as a community representative on the PRREMS committee to the development and implementation of the PRREMS. As the NSW Nature Conservation Council representative on the operational committee for eight years he was one of the committee members who helped identify risks as well as developing the scope and vision for the PRREMS.

Several lodges also received highly commendable certificates including:

- **Yeti Alpine Ski Club** for improved performance and significant effort in implementing "best practice" standards in environmentally sustainable tourism.
- **Hus-Ski Lodge** for consistent achievement of environmental targets and implementation of initiatives resulting in improved environmental performance.
- **Brindabella Ski Club (Tiobunga & Kyilla Lodges)** for consistent achievement of environmental targets and implementation of initiatives resulting in improved environmental performance.

Congratulations to the lodges recognised in these awards as leading the way in environmental commitment in the Perisher Range Resorts over the past year.



Ralph Wese (Guthega Ski Club), Frank Zipfinger (SLOPES), Andrew Harrigan (NPWS), Jim Spiers (Maranatha Lodge - Tirroul Ski Club) and John Barilaro (Member for Monaro)
(Photo: Virginia Logan).



Frank Zipfinger (SLOPES President) accepts Peter Prineas' Environmental Advocate Award on his behalf
(Photo: Helen Smith).



4th Annual Snowy Mountains of Music Festival

Incorporating information from an interview with David de Santi in 2010 by The AU Review
www.theaureview.com/interviews/david-de-santi-artistic-director-snowy-mountains-of-music-festival.

A conversation between Cliff Wallis from the Sundeck Hotel and his musical friend, Mike Martin, a little over four years ago about the possibility of holding an acoustic style music festival in the venues around Perisher over the June long weekend resulted in the conception of the only music festival in the southern hemisphere that is held in the snow. It was brought to fruition through the passionate efforts of David de Santi (Artistic Director of the Festival) and Belinda Shore (Perisher Chamber of Commerce Chairperson). David de Santi believes that the success of this Festival lies in the open applications for performers, which opens the Festival to a much broader range of artists, including new up-and-coming artists rather than relying purely on the organisers' experience and contacts. Of course, the intimate settings, snowy backdrop and acoustic style of music offer the Festival-goer an inimitable musical experience.

The 4th annual Snowy Mountains of Music Festival was held in Perisher over the long weekend and continued the trend of getting bigger and better every year. The whole vibe of the Festival was only improved by the natural snow surrounding the venues and the excitement of the skiers who'd headed to Perisher for its pre-season fund raising weekend. The whole Perisher Range was a buzz with excitement. Over 115 concerts across 8 venues and four days meant that there was something

for everyone. International headlining artists, The Black Seeds, were joined by a myriad of artists from a range of genres including blues, folk and reggae. The return of A French Butler Called Smith was warmly received by the revellers. A special moment was taken to pay respects to local music legend Birdie and the Australian music legend Jimmy Little, both of whom passed away earlier in the year. Winners of the online busking competition, Elephant Eyes, were rewarded with a position as opening act for The Black Seeds and they showed just why they had been successful.

The poetry side of this Festival is also growing at a rapid rate. The poetry competitions were adjudicated by three national poetry champions: Greg North, Peter Mace and Zondrae King. This year the Broken Ski Award for written poems was divided into Open, Junior (9-12 years) and Junior (8 years and under) sections. The Snowy Poetry Cup was again awarded for the best recited poetry. The inaugural Poetry Slam was held on Sunday evening at the Sundeck Hotel. And the Festival goes and those who couldn't make it but wanted to were kept up-to-date on happenings and interviews with some of the acts with Amber Snowylogger, the winner of the blogger competition.

The 2012 Perisher winter season was well and truly kicked-off in style.

All images courtesy of www.snowymountainsofmusic.com.au

Perisher contributions from early season opening

The 2012 winter season had a kick-start on the weekend of 2 June and Perisher celebrated by donating all proceeds from lift ticket sales to various community groups in the area. 60 local groups wrote to Perisher Blue with valid reasons why they deserve a charitable donation and how they would use donated funds. All 60 groups benefitted, the list of recipients include local schools, LAOKO, health groups, athletics programs and sporting clubs among many others.

"To be honest we were overwhelmed with the response by organisations that could genuinely do with a helping hand; there are so many people doing such great work in the region," said Peter Brulisauer, CEO at Perisher. "It made the decision on how to divide the money extremely difficult. We are proud to be part of the Snowy Mountains community and we are so glad that we could assist all of these organisations in some way."

Top left to right: Visitors discovering the reptile display at the NPWS building in Perisher Valley and some of the reptiles on display.

Bottom left to right: Braeden Woods-Smith, Lachlan Harrigan, Cori Isele, Feature Creatures Mobile Reptile Display Operator - Darrelyn Raines, Connor Rae and Abi Harrigan. (Photos: OEH Collection).



Support acts to the Snowy Mountains of Music Festival

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) welcomes the opportunity to support events that are held within the Kosciuszko National Park as they help to spread the word about the uniquely magnificent experience that is offered by visiting this Park. The Snowy Mountains of Music Festival is one such event. In addition to offering a park entry package and providing some financial support for the event the NPWS also provided interactive displays that highlight features of the Park that winter visitors might not have considered.

The most eye-catching display was the snow cave built in the accumulated snow near the NPWS office at Perisher with a tent and sleeping bag. NPWS Ranger Tim Greville was joined by members of the NSW Police, Ambulance and SES to provide information to visitors about snow safety particularly in the back country. In 2012 NPWS launched a new back country safety poster in an effort to reduce the need for search and rescue operations, particularly during winter. This display was designed to take the message out into the Park and highlight the seriousness of this issue to those kicking off the winter snow

sports season. Many curious folks stopped by for a chat through the day and several of the kids enjoyed exploring the cave and the slippery snow.

Those who entered the NPWS building found an animal world waiting to be explored. The crew from Feature Creatures had brought their animal menagerie and their vast experience with these native species to share with the weekend revellers. Intrepid visitors relished the opportunity to snuggle with a snake and laugh with a lizard as a particularly laid back black headed python got up close and personal with them and the blue tongue lizards showed off their best asset. The highlight of the display was the saltwater crocodile but he was happy to share the limelight with a range of frogs and phasmids (stick insects) all shown off to great effect with some of the features from their native habitats.

Staff from NPWS were on hand on both Saturday and Sunday to chat with the visitors, take photos of wildlife experiences and welcome everyone to both the Music Festival and the start of the 2012 winter season.



internship - a rewarding experience

Some of you may have noticed a new young face wearing the NPWS fluoro jacket this past winter. No it wasn't a new staff member – it was Reba Mourao a university intern. Originally reigning from the slopes in California, she is completing a Bachelor of Environmental Management (Sustainable Development) at the University of Queensland in Brisbane.

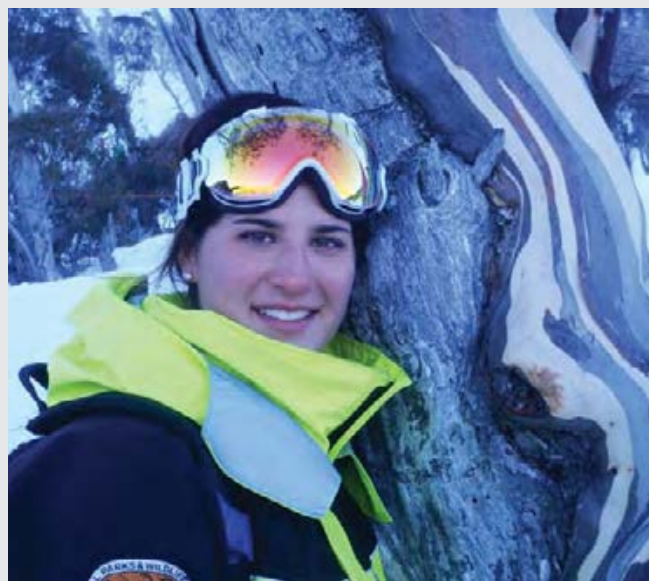
Growing up in California, Reba developed a love for snow sports very early on as well as a love for the environment. California is the leading state for environmental responsibility and initiatives in the USA. This work placement gave her the opportunity to combine these two passions.

During her 12 week internship with NPWS she accompanied several Environmental Services Unit (ESU) Officers on site inspections, monitoring and undertaking environmental audits. She also worked on several projects with staff and stakeholders of the ski resorts including the revision of the PRREMS Lodge Environment Manual.

Reba is not the first intern to join the NPWS team. ESU has previously hosted three other industrial placement students from Southern Cross University in as many years. They all worked closely with the Research and Monitoring Officer, Mel Schroder implementing the environmental monitoring program in resorts. Their time with NPWS must have been beneficial as they have all gone on to complete their degrees and gain employment in the environmental field. Brent Johnson, one of the first interns now works as a Liaison Officer with the NPWS Utilities Unit at Jindabyne.

Over the years Mel has also mentored and assisted several students undertaking PhD or honours studies in KNP including Richard Hocking who completed his honours project on, 'The impact of de-icing salts on Alpine Bogs'. She is currently assisting, Chloe Sato with her three year study on Alpine Skinks, distribution and ecology as well as two other PhD students, Hayley Bates (University of NSW) and Haijing Shi (Australian Defence Force Academy) who are both doing their research on the Mountain Pygmy-possum.

Reba said she enjoyed her time in the snowy mountains and gained a greater understanding of the challenges of operating ski resorts within a National Park. She is now back in the states enjoying a break hitting the slopes of Bear Valley in the Sierras before returning to Queensland to complete her degree in 2013. She has developed a bit of an attachment to our mountains and hopes to return to Jindabyne eventually in some kind of professional capacity.



Top: Reba Mourao, University intern who worked with Environmental Services Unit - Winter 2012 (Photo: Mark Nolan).

Middle: Reba and Mark Nolan (Photo: OEH Collection).

Bottom: Reba having a break on the slopes (Photo: Mark Nolan).

Behind the kitchen doors and in the hot tubs of Kosciuszko

Reprinted from a NPWS Press Release, 30 August 2012

Inspecting everything from hot chocolate to spa baths in the ski resorts may sound like a holiday, but managing public health and food safety during the busy winter season is serious work for some.

Food and public health inspections in Kosciuszko National Park are managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), and this winter Environmental Health Officers have been keeping a watchful eye.

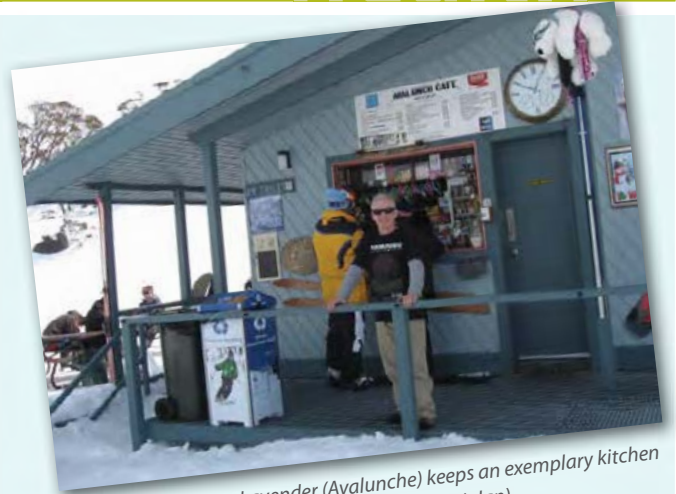
NPWS Resorts Manager Andrew Harrigan says the job is not without its challenges, particularly as most of the 170 plus food businesses have a new set of food handling

staff every winter.

"Parks runs pre-season food handling courses and we regularly check food handling procedures and kitchen cleanliness at Perisher, Thredbo, Charlotte Pass and Selwyn," Mr Harrigan said.

"The New South Wales ski resorts have the largest concentration of public pools and spas in the state so we also run trainings and do inspections to ensure safety and water quality standards are met."

Mr Harrigan says most operators know the relevant standards and requirements and take their responsibilities to their guests seriously.



Steve Lavender (Avalunche) keeps an exemplary kitchen (Photo: Mark Nolan).

"We have food service businesses in the park that routinely tell our inspectors to check behind things or under things because they are so proud of their cleanliness and hygiene.

"Resorts become small towns in peak times and it is mind boggling to think about how many meals and beverages are served up during the four months of the ski season.

"If I wanted to know the best hot chocolate in Kosciuszko I'd ask an Environmental Health Officer, which makes me think the job isn't all bad."



Mick and Jenny from Illawarra Master Builders Alpine Club (IMBAC) Lodge in Smiggin Holes, keep an exemplary kitchen during busy winter trade (Photo: Courtesy of IMBAC Lodge).

Mountain Pygmy-possum



Can Mountain Pygmy-possum adapt to climate change?

The endangered Mountain Pygmy-possum (MPP) is a small marsupial restricted to the Australian Alps. The MPP is very unique as it is the only marsupial which goes into hibernation over winter and until recently was thought to only occur above 1600m. The current species estimate is approximately 970 adults for the Kosciuszko Plateau (Broome et al 2012 in press). This estimate does not include the newly discovered populations elsewhere in Kosciuszko National Park (KNP).

The Summer 2010 (Issue No.32) of Resort Round Up brought attention to a new population of the endangered MPP which had been found in the former Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme artificial spoil dump at Happy Jacks pondage (1240m) in the northern part of KNP.

This find has changed the climatic envelope of where the species may occur and has led to other sites being identified and surveyed in the northern part of KNP at lower elevations. Some of these sites were previously surveyed in 1987 but no animals were located. The surveys have found new populations both in artificial spoil dumps (5) and in natural scree (rock boulder) slopes at Rough Creek, Boltons Hill and Snow Ridge South of Cabramurra. Surveys of these sites in October - November 2011 captured 139 adults. Additional habitats are being investigated to the north of these sites but have not yet found any animals. The northern habitats are different from the southern areas of KNP; the boulder fields are basalt and the rock size is smaller in comparison to the granite scree slopes in the south. They also have a different assemblage of plant species.

Whilst this species is still under considerable threat due to its low numbers these new populations provide hope that this species is better able to adapt and survive the predictions of climate change and subsequent receding snow lines.

MPP populations around the resorts

Population monitoring of the MPP has been undertaken for the past 26 years in the resort areas of Charlotte Pass and Mt Blue Cow. At these sites the MPP live in the large boulder fields. The animals feed on bogong moths and plant species such as Plum Pine, Bearded Heath and Pimelia. Since 2001, there has been a major decline in the number of animals in the resort areas. But the population monitoring over the last two years has brought some good news. In 2011 the population at Charlotte Pass was recorded at its highest since 1994 at 50, 36 females and 14 males. In 2012, the population was recorded as 48. At Mt Blue Cow, which once had the highest population in KNP, appear to have recovered from a low of 5 in 2009 to 18 in 2011 and 17 in 2012. This increase is likely to be associated with the recovery of habitat following the 2003 fires, increased rainfall, more available food and the introduction of more intensive predator control programs.

MPP teenage stowaway!

In April this year Charlottes Pass staff found a stowaway Mountain Pygmy-possum which managed to find his way down the mountain. The juvenile adult male had found a warm snug place in a laundry bag. Fortunately staff identified the escapee realising it was an endangered possum and a rescue operation was mounted. The animal was returned safely to the male boulder field area at Charlotte Pass.

Top to bottom: Mountain Pygmy-possum (MPP) (Photo: Linda Broome); MPP (Photo: Mel Schroder); Shhhhh Sleeping MPP (Photo: Linda Broome) and MPP (Photo: Lucy Morrell).



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Government Organization
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au National Parks and Wildlife Service manages over 860 national parks and reserves, that is more than 7 million hectares comprising landscapes from

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Image courtesy of Perisher Ski Resort

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Read more about Kosciuszko National Park
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/kosciuszko-national-park

What can you grow on an old tip?

by Cameron Hampshire, NPWS Senior Field Officer, MSU

Regular readers of Resort Round Up may remember an article on the closure of the land fill site located at Sawpit creek and plans to establish a plant nursery there.

The first stages of these works are now complete and involved capping of the tip cell and bulk earth works. During the final shaping of the site, bark chip and other recycled material were mixed in to improve the soil. Swales were formed from soil to create contours in the landscape which retain and capture rain water. The swales will eventually fill with organic matter which will break down in the pooling water adding more nutrients to the soil. To prevent grazing on the nursery plants a two metre high fence now surrounds the site.

In any site after disturbance, the soil's seed bank which may have built up over many years will be released and exotic weeds will re-populate. To combat this, especially given last

summer's above average rainfall, NPWS staff embarked on an intensive weed control program of the site.

During the 2012-13 summer, the area will be planted out with a native Poa grass and mulched to suppress any remaining weeds. Sawpit Creek has an elevation of approximately 1100 metres and this provides the plants with a less hostile growing environment compared with for example Perisher Valley at 1700 metres.

The Poa grass seed produced will be collected, stored and used in rehabilitation projects within the resorts. Part of the nursery will also be used to harvest mature plants which will be directly transplanted to rehabilitation sites. Using sods containing soil and more advanced plants can fast track rehabilitation projects by covering bare ground more quickly and thus preventing unwanted weeds and grasses from establishing.



Sawpit Creek site
(Photo: Cameron Hampshire)

Time for Spring Cleaning!

As the snow begins to thaw and flowers start to bloom, we know spring has arrived and so has all the rubbish frozen since the ski season. The annual Perisher Blue and Charlotte Pass cleaning days were recently held to bring our mountains and streams back to pristine condition!

Each year, around 100 Perisher and NPWS employees perform 450+ person hours cleaning up the slopes, lodges, streams, roads, lifts and anywhere rubbish collects during the winter. In 2005, when the first Perisher Clean Up Day was held, over 2 tonnes of litter was collected and removed from KNP in just one day with each subsequent year averaging about 1 tonne including 2012.

It's not all about rubbish though, a NPWS Officer came across a Copperhead snake basking in the sun on the Perisher Clean Up Day.



Top right: Copperhead snake disturbed on Perisher Clean Up Day - 21 November 2012

Bottom right: Litter still in the resort in November 2012 (Photos: Mark Nolan).

Corroboree Frog distribution to include visitor centres in Tumut and Jindabyne

by Sally Miller, Mark Lees & Dr David Hunter

The southern corroboree frog (*Pseudophryne corroboree*) is an iconic species for Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) for a number of reasons. Firstly, despite being about the size of a 20 cent piece, it has a striking appearance being bright yellow and black. It exists only within the KNP and nowhere else in the wild. It is listed as endangered under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and as critically endangered in NSW under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act). This is partly due to its highly localised distribution, but also as a result of the total population estimate of approximately 100-150 individuals in 2008.

As a result of the small population spread over a fairly small area and with highly specific habitat requirements, most of which is readily accessed by walkers and/or skiers, this species is particularly vulnerable to a range of threats. The chytrid fungus that has devastated a number of frog species around Australia poses the most significant threat to this tiny animal and is believed to be the major cause for the declines already witnessed in the last few decades. The primary habitat of these little creatures is montane and sub-alpine heathland and grassland which is divided into two purposes. During the breeding season they are dependent on wet environments to lay their eggs and raise their young and so restrict themselves to temporary moist areas such as sphagnum bogs, temporary pools and seepages and wet tussock grass and heath. Outside of this period they can be found in leaf litter, logs and dense ground cover in areas nearby their breeding sites. Their need for regular moisture on an annual basis means they are highly susceptible to drought, climate change, fire and the impact of feral animals in water bodies. The catastrophic fires that swept through the Park in 2003 impacted the frogs in a myriad of ways, some of which lasted well beyond the extinguishing of the fire.

Due to the catastrophic decline in this species throughout its limited distribution, in 2007-2008 it was predicted that the species would become extinct in the wild within two to five years. A recent survey by the Office of Environment and Heritage's Dave Hunter found only 9 males calling over the frog's entire range and only one nest of eggs.

In order to protect this species from such a disastrous end, eggs

have been collected from each of the breeding populations over the past five years and frogs have been successfully raised in captivity at the Amphibian Research Centre, Melbourne Zoo; Healesville Sanctuary in Victoria and at Taronga Zoo in Sydney. This breeding program has been highly successful and the frogs raised in captivity have been successfully breeding to such an extent that there is now a viable population of captive corroboree frogs.

The visitor centres in Tumut and Jindabyne were approached by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Threatened Species Officer, Dr David Hunter with an initiative to install live Corroboree Frog displays to promote the environmental preservation issues associated with this iconic Australian species. The aim of the displays is to provide education and direct experience to the public to raise awareness about the unique nature of Corroboree Frogs and the fragile Australian environments they live in.

Three displays were proposed to be located around KNP due to it being the major home for the species. The two NPWS visitor centres located in Tumut and Jindabyne were selected due to being major points of contact for visitors to the park, their annual visitation numbers, opening hours and environmental preservation focus.

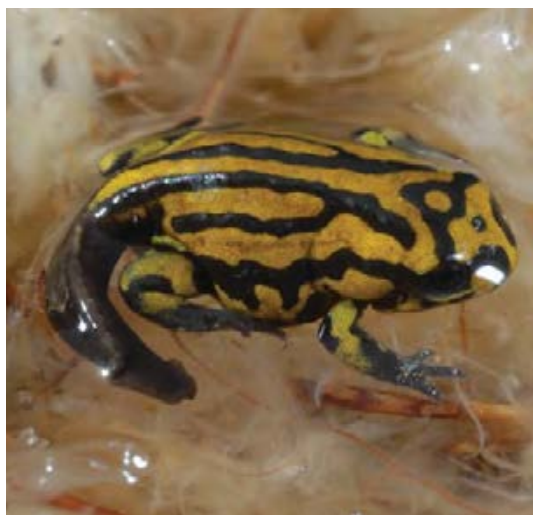
Each visitor centre was required to purchase a specially built self contained enclosure designed and supplied by Taronga Zoo in Sydney, which is low maintenance and provides suitable habitat and environmental conditions for corroboree frogs. The husbandry techniques incorporated into these display enclosures have been used without incident to maintain corroboree frogs in captivity over the past 12 years.

To ensure the ongoing care and upkeep of the enclosure and Corroboree Frogs, selected staff will be given full training by Taronga Zoo staff which will include all aspects required to care for, maintain, and monitor the health of the frogs and ongoing quality of the habitat.

The Corroboree Frog displays should be up and running by early 2013 and NPWS are excited about the opportunity to showcase one of Australia's most unique amphibian species and work to educate people about the importance of their preservation.



Southern Corroboree Frog eggs containing new tadpoles



Southern Corroboree Frog metamorph



Southern Corroboree Frog (Photos: Dr David Hunter).



Hawkweed Hunt – Help us search for this devastating pest

Two years ago we introduced you to this environmental and agricultural weed and asked for your vigilance whenever in the Park, particularly around the resort areas. Now we are inviting you to join us in the search for new locations, deep within Kosciuszko National Park.

In the past year, 63 new Orange Hawkweed sites were discovered, 32 of which were found by volunteers during the annual Hawkweed hunt. There are now 135 sites that cover 7.43 ha where this weed has been found within an area of 8,165 ha. Weed control for this species is achieved by chemically treating with herbicide. At this time 36% of the known sites require no further control. Please join us in search for new sites so we can further control this noxious weed.

Survey dates for 2012-13

The volunteer survey program runs on a weekly basis Monday to Thursday (except the Australia Day public holiday) for the following periods (Fridays are optional):

- 3-7 December 2012
- 10-14 December
- 17-21 December
- 7-11 January 2013
- 14-18 January
- 21-25 January
- 29 Jan to 1 February
- 4-8 February

The December 2012 period may include overnight camp outs, depending on willingness of participants and weather conditions. Volunteers are welcome to participate for as many days as they can, however bookings are essential.

Interested and want to make a difference?

For more information, registration and bookings contact the Khancoban National Parks and Wildlife Service Office on 02 60769373 or 0428 103 800. Information is also available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkVolunteering.aspx?id=N0018



Orange Hawkweed (Photos: Jo Caldwell).



Correction

The photograph of solar panels at Sundeck Hotel on the front page of the previous issue of Resort Round Up was incorrectly credited to Dave Woods as the photographer and was therefore printed without the correct approvals of the photographer and the subject. The photo was actually taken by Sayaka Mihara. We wholeheartedly apologise for this oversight.

Yarrangobilly Caves grey water quenches Native Poa Thirst

by Lucy Morrell

Field officers from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Asset, Roads & Rehabilitation Unit are outstanding in their field of Poa.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is using grey water and treated effluent from Yarrangobilly Caves to raise native Poa or “snow grass” seed crops for use in revegetation projects in Kosciuszko National Park.

NPWS Southern Ranges Rehabilitation Officer Liz MacPhee says the Poa plantation project uses nitrate-laden effluent, or grey water, from accommodation and visitor amenities as the source of water and nutrition to grow the crop.

“NPWS has created a sustainable production system using waste water

and is a model for other remote sewage treatment plants.

“By using Yarrangobilly grey water we stop it entering the Karst system of the caves, and the Poa seed crop becomes a valuable side product for revegetation works.

“Poa love nitrogen so waste water from the Yarrangobilly sewage treatment plant creates perfect conditions for the grass to grow prolifically.

“Other species such as Lomandra and hard to harvest sub-alpine shrubs are also grown in the Yarrangobilly sewage discharge area for use in alpine rehabilitation projects.

“Native high altitude Poa species are not available in large enough quantities for Kosciuszko National

Park revegetation projects, so the Yarrangobilly Poa plantation is extremely important.

“Since native alpine grasses and shrubs were planted at Yarrangobilly in 2006, over 300 kilograms of highly viable seed has been harvested.

“Poa is a native tussock grass planted or sown in Kosciuszko National Park to stop soil erosion and revegetate former Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme sites.

“NPWS recently received national recognition for the rehabilitation of Snowy Scheme sites and Poa seed produced from Yarrangobilly was used extensively in those efforts,” Ms MacPhee said.



Top (left to right): Yarrangobilly Caves native Poa or “snow grass” seed crops, Kosciuszko National Park; Poa growing beds at Yarrangobilly Caves and Poa or snow grass.

Bottom (left to right): Native plants hardening off for rehabilitation planting; Poa costiniana growing at Yarrangobilly Caves and NPWS Rehabilitation Officer Liz MacPhee (Photos: Lucy Morrell).

trapping

kosci tabbies

This past winter season, NPWS and the resorts have improved their ongoing feral cat cage trapping control program. This has assisted in an increased rate of capture of feral cats. The program now relies on lodges and staff reporting all sightings of feral cats. Following this a series of traps are located in the vicinity of the report. This quick targeted response system has allowed eight feral cats to be trapped during the winter season. All but one of the cats reported has been trapped. This program is then supported by the summer soft jaw trapping (refer to 'Predator Control Program' article on page 17).

8 Kosci Tabbies have been caught in the past 2 months.

4 cats have been caught in Thredbo, 3 caught in the Perisher Range and 1 caught in Charlotte Pass resort.



Above: Feral cat (Kosci Tabbie) (Photo: Cameron Hampshire).

Left: Perisher Creek rehabilitation project (Photo: Mel Schroder).



riparian restoration projects

If you have been lucky enough to visit the resort areas during the summer months you may have noticed some

of our large revegetation projects being undertaken along the creeks and rivers. These programs use plants grown from seed or cuttings collected in Kosciuszko National Park. The process involved growing some of the plant species, which can take up to two years.

Along the Thredbo River in the Thredbo Village over 3500 plants, including Black Sally, Callistemon and Tea trees have been planted to help restore riparian vegetation. Downstream of the village, scotch broom and willow programs

have removed hundreds of invasive plants.

At Rock/Perisher Creek, the Environmental Trust is supporting another revegetation project. The control of a range of weed species followed by the planting of over 3000 heath plants at the top of the rock creek catchment and along Perisher Creek adjoining the Perisher car park.

Both of these programs are important for restoring natural habitat which will help reduce stream bank erosion and improve water quality. Once the plants become established there will be improved habitat connectivity for animal species including the Broad-toothed Rat.



Predator Control Programs

Predator control programs which target both the feral cat and fox are undertaken throughout the year. Programs are designed to reduce the impact of predation on fauna species including the threatened animals Broad-toothed Rat (BTR) and the Mountain Pygmy-possum (MPP). The infrastructure around the resorts provides harbour and food opportunities for these species. It also gives them the opportunity to live out the cold winter months without having to retreat to lower elevations. Programs include cage trapping, poison baiting and more recently the inclusion of soft jaw trapping.

This program commenced in 2010 and in two years the program has been able to remove 18 cats and 24 foxes from in and around threatened species habitat at Charlotte Pass and the Perisher Range up to Schlinks Pass. This is good news for the MPP and BTR, whose populations have seen an increase since the program commenced.

As part of the program, we have been investigating what the

foxes and cats have been eating in the non-snow periods. We do this by looking at what is in the animals gut, identifying the different types of animal species by their hair or scales. What we have found is that the cat and fox diets are very different and vary throughout the year. Whilst foxes are more opportunistic feeders, in summer they take advantage of the bogong moth migration and the increase in other insects such as grasshoppers. Cats tend to feed on mammals exclusively throughout the year with an odd grasshopper or skink over summer. Unfortunately for the BTR they seem to be a favourite of both predators. Evidence of the BTR was found in 14 of the cats and 2 foxes. MPP was also found in 2 of the foxes. One cat was found to have 12 bush rat feet in its gut! Other animals include Antechinus, Bush Rat and skinks.

Please remember that you can always assist our pest programs by reporting any feral animal sightings in and around resorts. Reports help us put the traps in the right place. Please contact Mel Schroder on 02 64505611.



Have you seen the view from Black Perry Lookout?



(Photo: OEH Collection)

Black Perry Lookout is now open and it overlooks Black Perry Mountain and the Bogong Peaks Wilderness Area. The Black Perry Lookout is located on the Snowy Mountains Highway south east of Talbingo, approximately 47 km south of Tumut.

Back to Perisher

Growing in the Sunshine

The Back to Perisher Weekend is rapidly becoming the off-season highlight for the Perisher Range. What started as an offering to get members and their friends and family to visit their lodges outside of the ski season has grown to be an annual event attracting locals, lodge members and unaffiliated visitors to explore the Perisher Valley and surrounding areas of Kosciuszko National Park. The weekend's staple events are the Fun Run in which participants run or walk from Perisher Gap to Charlotte Pass Village, the Great Perisher Duck Race on the Perisher Creek, and the Guthega Super Sleuth on the Sunday. These are supplemented by a variety of other offerings that vary each year including guided walks with National Parks staff.

This year saw the numbers attending all events break the previous years' records, no doubt assisted by the non-stop sunshine that bathed the event from Friday through Sunday. The Fun Run attracted approximately 150 participants, including nearly 40 who were 14 years old and under to run, jog or walk the 6.1km route. This is a 25% increase on last year's numbers and supports the trial this year of advertising the run on some of the prime running websites. Congratulations go to Bryce Anderson and Liz Miller who achieved the fastest times in the senior male and senior female category, respectively; and to Lachlan Harrigan and Gabby Waite who were the fastest junior male and junior female. Both of the juniors are local Jindabyne residents so it will be interesting to see if they can better their times next year.

While the Fun Run had an impressive turn out for only its fourth running, the stand out event for the weekend would have to be the Duck Race. Well over 300 people lined the banks of the Perisher Creek to watch 200 small plastic coloured and numbered ducks "race" between bridges, a 50% increase on last year. The ducks were numbered and purchased prior to the race with all proceeds going to the Perisher Volunteer Ski Patrol. The race began well but the ducks got caught up in the mini rapids and waterfall so the NSW Fire Brigade members in attendance stepped in with their powerful water hoses to hurry the little guys along. Bernie Cinders, the Fire Brigade's mascot was in attendance to lend his support to the racing ducks and their cheer squads. The winner of the duck race scored a large

chocolate Easter Duck for their efforts and the Ski Patrol gained \$400 to support their efforts to come this winter season. This event is highly likely to increase again next year as over 30 people who attended this year were unsuccessful in gaining a duck due to demand. To top off this wonderful event the Fire Brigade demonstrated the danger, severity, speed and destruction of something as apparently simple as a domestic kitchen fire. They held a crowd of over 50 people breathless throughout their demonstration, leaving many to take home the message of caution with all things flammable in the home.

Sunday was Guthega's turn to shine in the sunlight. The Super Sleuth hunt took interested families on a fact-finding walk around the Guthega Precinct finding the answers to an array of questions. The Easter Bunny, looking considerably like Noni de Carvalho in big pink bunny ears, handed out Easter eggs to the kids as they worked their way through the question sheet. Upon their return to the Guthega Alpine Inn, the Super Sleuth kids were provided with a hot dog sizzle free of charge by Nick and Jenny Kennedy. Many families took advantage of the gorgeous sunshine and the wonderful location to stay for a bite of lunch. The National Parks and Wildlife Service arranged for the Taronga Zoo Zoomobile to visit for the afternoon where they entertained the children (and young at heart) with the wildlife they had brought with them. Brian the echidna was particularly popular but not to be outdone by the spotted snake, shingleback lizard, blotched blue tongue lizard and ringtail possum that were stars in their own right and all were patted & photographed throughout the 3 hour show. Nick Kennedy very generously donated \$500 to Guthega skink research and to support the Super Sleuth event and also contributed prizes for a raffle.

A handful of stalwarts braved the weather and joined NPWS Ranger Tim Greville for a meander around the cross country ski trails and a discussion of life on top and underneath the snow.

This event is exploding onto the calendar in a huge way and will only continue to get bigger and better so book it into your calendar for next Easter as we're already tossing around ideas to add to next year's program.



Lucinda (Zoomobile), 'Brian', Audrey Logan, Megan Bennett, Leo Logan and Charlie Craig.



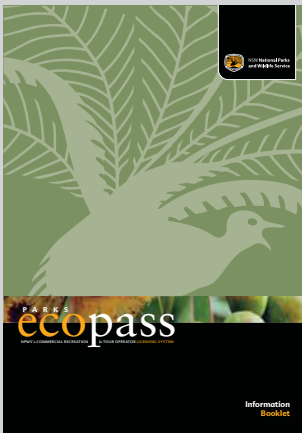
Nick Kennedy (Guthega Alpine Hotel) donating \$500 to Sally Miller (NPWS) for the skink research program.



Start of the 'Back to Perisher' Fun Run (Photos: OEH Collection).



NPWS rewards Reynella Rides



Roslyn and John Rudd have provided quality horseback adventures in the Snowy Mountains for more than forty years and the next ten will be with the NSW National Parks' Premium Eco Pass. Reynella Rides is now one of eleven tourism operators to achieve this level of accreditation and it is not taken lightly. The accreditation is in recognition of their living culture, heritage horse riding that provides a unique, authentic experience while being environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. By giving Reynella the 'Ten Year Premium Eco Pass', the NSW government is supporting small businesses, encouraging more visitors to National Parks and encouraging environmentally responsible practices.

With the Eco Pass, Reynella will be able to display its internationally recognised Eco-Tourism accreditation logos on promotional material overseas as well as at home and gain the competitive advantage over other horse-touring companies. Reynella can now plan for the future and hopefully encourage more sustainable visitors into the Snowy Mountains.

For more information:
Parks Eco Pass visit
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksecopass/
Reynella Rides visit
www.reynellarides.com.au

CHLOE loves LIZARDS...

By Emily Elkington

Chloe Sato was the recipient of the Glenn Sanecki Alpine Scholarship in 2010 and has been undertaking research on the biology and habitat of alpine and sub-alpine skinks in the Kosciuszko National Park for the last two years.

Over the 2010-11 summer, Chloe commenced the field component of her three year study by placing scores of concrete tiles to detect the lizards using the tiles for warmth and protection. Last summer (2011-12), Chloe returned to continue her research and made some interesting discoveries.

Chloe's field work corresponds with the warmer months of November to March but this past summer the weather provided some trials for her. "I have picked a challenging time because of the La Nina switch, so due to the wet and cold weather they (the skinks) are not coming out, and finding four consecutive days to study them has been hard," said Ms Sato.

While mammals are usually emphasised in ecological research Chloe decided to study skinks because they are often left out of studies. "The cute and fluffies dominate in research which is why skinks haven't been looked at in this area but I loved catching and playing with lizards when I was a kid so the skink was a good

choice," she said.

Nine species of skink live in the alpine snow country of the Kosciuszko National Park including two endangered species, which Chloe has detected in her study. She made some surprising finds including discovering skinks in exotic grassland 'ski runs' where you wouldn't expect to find them. The highlight of the research has been the detection of the the endangered Alpine She-oak skink and Guthega skink.

A major part of her project includes examining the changes, which occur as a result of habitat modification from recreational activities. "I want to make my research useful to the National Park's management so they can make more informed decisions about balancing recreational pursuits with conservation needs," she said.

Chloe also wants to combat the negative preconception of ecological research that many people in the resorts may have. "I love the mountains and skiing at these resorts so I want to show people that my research is positive and that human modification to help the environment can happen while still maintaining the activities the resorts are set up for," she said.



Southern Grass Skink
 (Photo: Emily Elkington)

Skis - Always changing - 1900-2012

by Chrissi Webb, Thredbo Ski Museum Administrator

Like the current exhibition in the Thredbo Ski Museum (TSM), that is "Skis – always changing: 1896 – 2012", TSM which is in pursuit of excellence, is again under review with its procedures and practices being assessed both at Federal and State levels.

At Federal level, the TSM is the recipient of a 2012 Community Heritage Grant of \$5,000 to assist in the assessment of its collection for national significance. There are 78 other groups including museums, libraries, archives, historical societies, art galleries, migrant, Indigenous and religious organisations receiving grants.

In addition, TSM Administrator, Christina Webb, attended a three-day intensive preservation and collection management workshop - held at the National Library, the National Sound Archives of Australia, the National Museum of Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra.

National Library of Australia, Director-General, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, said the Community Heritage Grants program showed the commitment by the National Library along with its partner institutions and the Federal Government, to encourage and assist communities to care for the nation's heritage, whether held in capital cities, regional centres or remote areas. She said "these grants are a reminder that if we do not preserve our history now, it could be lost forever."

At a State Level, through South East Arts funding from the State Government, TSM is also the recipient of the advice of a Museum Advisor to assist it develop connections with local government and the community. The Advisor, Kaye Soderlund will advise on raising the standard through training, introducing best practice

standards and identifying gaps in skills, as well as developing projects that enliven the presentation of the Museum and to help it realise its potential as a tourism and educational resource.

Amongst 50 odd skis from the 1900s to 2000s featured in the TSMs exhibition "Skis – Always Changing", are some very interesting skis including a Kiandra Ski (circa 1896); the 1910 American ski with Dunlop binding; the first Australian commercially manufactured Andy Broad skis (1930s), the wooden skis on which Adrian Studley skied the Gold Eagle test, plus a pair of skis used by Jean Claude Killy during his Australian visit.

In addition to the skis, the Museum contains memorabilia telling of the significant events in the Australian alpine history such as the Kiandra gold rush and the introduction of skiing to Australia, the tragic deaths of Laurie Seaman and Evan Hayes, and the Alpine Way Road Collapse in 1997. The Museum also houses 270 volumes in the research library relating to the development of snow sports.

The TSM is open every afternoon except Mondays, between 1-5pm from 26 December 2012 to Easter 2013, and at weekends during February, March, April and May. The museum is run by Thredbo Historical Society volunteers and a gold coin entry donation goes towards the upkeep of the Society's significant snow sports collection.

To find out who else shared in the more than \$420k of Community Heritage Grants visit www.nla.gov.au/content/community-heritage-grants-recipients-2012.

New museum volunteers are always welcome, to register your interest visit <http://thredboskimuseum.com/emailmuseum.htm>



Top left: Garden tour leader Bill Peach and Museum Administrator Chrissi Webb examine the camera found on the body of Laurie Seaman below Mt Kosciuszko in 1928 (Photo: Courtesy of TSM).

Above: Thredbo Historical Society collection of skis from 1890s to 1930s (Photo: Chrissi Webb).

Bottom left: Twelve decades of ski development on display in Thredbo Ski Museum (Photo: Chrissi Webb).

THREDBO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED
 incorporating *Friends of Thredbo*

PO Box 6
 Thredbo NSW 2625
 Alan Fredericks
 Ph. 02 9449 7610
 Mob. 0417 401 403
 email alanf@bigpond.net.au

Chrissi Webb
 Ph. 02 6456 2279
 email aab5@bigpond.com



Thredbo Blues Festival

With the artists announced for the 19th Annual Thredbo Blues Festival, this is your chance to purchase some Early Bird tickets for you, your family or some mates. Some 20 bands are on the program and each will play three or four gigs over the weekend. You have the opportunity to listen to another weekend of sultry sounds and entertaining performances in a number of venues across the Thredbo Village and on the mountain. From Friday evening to the early hours of Monday morning, artists and bands will deliver smooth rhythms, tight punchy inflections and heart-felt lyrics just captivating you and the audience, making you want to dance or at least bop your head and tap your feet. Highlight performers include Swampouse, Tom Richardson, Genevieve Chadwick, The Others, Gail Page, Bridie King and many other talents.

Guests have the opportunity to see them in public venues or more intimate dining experiences at various restaurants in the willage. Some bands even rove around the Village Square or play in restaurants on the mountain, like Eagles Nest. Don't pass up the chance to experience wonderful blues music in the most beautiful Australian setting, the Snowy Mountains!

The Festival will be held 18-20 January 2013. For tickets visit www.thredboblues.com or call Jen on (02) 6457 6882.



Changes at the Helm in Thredbo

After 22 years as General Manager at Thredbo Kim Clifford stepped aside in July and moved into a part time consultancy position advising on ski area design. Kim has contributed significantly to the productive relationship that has developed between Thredbo and NPWS over his time in this position. Under Kim's leadership Thredbo has embraced the Environmental Management System recently achieving Bronze status in OEH's Sustainability Advantage Program and taking a ski resort industry lead role in defining environmental benchmarks and reporting. The relationship between Thredbo and NPWS, under Kim's management has contributed to the successful improvements for the walking track network both within the resort lease area and across the main range and along the Thredbo Valley. In addition Thredbo has made significant investment in automated snowmaking technology which is both a more sustainable technology and gives Thredbo greater shoulder season reliability.

Jordan Rodgers has taken up the role of Thredbo's General Manager. Jordan has been the CEO of AMF Bowling for five years and prior to that was the General Manager Hotel Intercontinental Sydney and Director of Development Hotels and Resorts with AHL, Thredbo's parent company, and Area General Manager at Rydges in Melbourne.



Changes on the mountain at Thredbo

The Friday Flat beginner area and lower portion of the High Noon run are set for a facelift for the 2013 ski season. A capital improvement program has been approved by Thredbo's parent company, Amalgamated Holdings Limited (AHL) with planning now underway and construction anticipated commencing in January 2013. A new trail from the Merritts crossover that will link directly with the base of the Gunbarrel Express will free up the existing route off High Noon, allowing beginners and learning visitors a larger area to practice without the worry of more experienced skiers and boarders having to dodge them. Separating the levels of skiers and boarders will ease congestion on Friday Flat and make the area more enjoyable and easier for the novice skiers and boarders while continuing access of more experienced skiers and riders to the Gunbarrel Express Chairlift.

"Once completed, skiers and boarders will see a substantial improvement to the lower section of High Noon and 30% more terrain added to Friday Flat, easing the clutter of both of these areas" said Kim Clifford, General Manager

Kosciuszko Thredbo.

The decommissioned Rams Head Chairlift has also been disassembled and Thredbo has sold 100 of the historic double chairs to raise money for a range of charities. The AHL nominated charity, the Children's Hospital Foundation Australia received 50% of the \$80,000 raised, with the remaining 50% having been divided between the Thredbo Community Centre, Thredbo Early Childhood Centre, Disabled Winter Sports and the Thredbo Ski Patrol. All charities would like to thank the generous buyers for the donations and they all have fantastic plans with the money, the Thredbo Early Childhood Centre plans for a new playground.

A feasibility study is now underway on the building of a new chairlift that will replace this iconic infrastructure. "It is a really exciting time for Thredbo and snow goes. The study will consist of initial surveying, environmental assessments and investigations into the best suitable replacement and location for a new chairlift. The findings should be available by November 2012" said Kim Clifford.

Thredbo announces next round of capital improvements

Reprint of Thredbo Media Release - 20 April 2012

Thredbo has announced the commencement of a capital improvement program that will include the extension and improvement of the Friday Flat beginner area and the lower area of the High Noon trail.

Mr Kim Clifford, General Manager Kosciuszko Thredbo (KT), announced that Thredbo's parent company, Amalgamated Holdings Limited (AHL), has approved funding for this project. Planning work is now underway with construction anticipated to commence in January 2013, with the project ready for the 2013 winter season.

"Once completed, skiers and boarders will see a substantial improvement to the lower section of High Noon and 30% more terrain added to Friday Flat, easing the clutter of both of these areas" said Mr Clifford.

The flow of rider traffic off High Noon will be improved by creating a new trail from the Merritts Chairlift crossover directly to the base of the Gunbarrel Express. This would free up the existing route giving our valued beginner and learning visitors a greater area to perfect their technique.

Separating the levels of skiers and boarders will ease congestion on the Friday Flat slope making the area more enjoyable and easier for new skiers and boarders to learn and enjoy themselves and also give intermediate and above riders easier access to the Gunbarrel Express Chairlift.

With the planned improvements, Thredbo is certainly reinforcing its position as Australia's premier year round alpine resort.

Friday Flat is a specially designed area for beginner skiers and boarders. It has a gentle gradient of 13% that is recognised as the ideal learning slope. It is accessed by an easy to use slow speed quad chair and two conveyor style Snow Runners lifts. All ski and snowboard lessons meet here and the highly regarded Children's base is also located on Friday Flat.



*Friday Flat, Thredbo Village
(Photo: Courtesy of Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd).*

For further information visit:

<http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/part-4-projects/alpine-projects>

Mt Selwyn Snowfields saves power on snow making

Ever since snow making was introduced into Australia in the 1980s resort operators have been exploring ways of improving their water and energy efficiency and the environmental window for making snow. One such operator is Bob Heatley, Director at Mount Selwyn Snowfields who has in recent years managed to reduce the energy consumed by their snow making machines by as much as 30%.

How has Bob managed this you ask? Well in Bob's words "Snow making is a high inductive load therefore the more machines you run the worse the power

factor becomes. In plain English this is like running your car way too rich and wasting fuel. Selwyn has a very high inductive load when its whole snowmaking system is operating and to counteract this we have installed 3 power factor correction units (one on each sub station). Power factor corrections units effectively tune the high inductive load to be more efficient. Typically we can raise the power factor from 0.7 to 1. This means that we have tuned our power consumption to be the most efficient possible. Savings can be up to 30% depending on the ratio of inductive to resistive load."



Mount Selwyn Snowfields Power Correction Unit
(Photo: Courtesy of Mout Selwyn Snowfields).



News from NPWS Property Services

The Property Services Unit is now fully staffed with the appointment of Penny McLennan as the Senior Property Officer (SPO). Penny will be familiar to many of you as she has been acting as the Senior Property Officer for the past twelve months, and has been with NPWS since 1997 in roles such as the Visitor Entry Station Coordinator and Visitor Centre Manager. Penny brings this experience to the role, in addition to knowledge gained from her current studies towards a law qualification at Sydney University.

Our other Senior Property Officer is Karen Field, whom most of you will already know through her extensive experience in Property Services Unit over the last decade. Penny and

Karen will each have responsibility for management of a portfolio of properties as listed over the page.

Carol Schubert and Susan Brown make up the remainder of the team as our two Property Officers and with their wealth of experience are capably assisting Penny, Karen and Marko, Manager of the unit. As first point of contact for property matters relating to your lease you can call Karen or Penny (see table overleaf). If your issue relates to one of the areas that Sue or Carol has responsibility for, you may wish to contact them directly. You can also contact Marko Kovac the Manager of Property Services on 02 64505502 to discuss any leasing matters at any time.

Property Services Unit Member	Contact for	Contact details
Marko Kovac	Leasing, licencing and commercial business enquiries	6450 5502
Karen Field	Direct contact for properties listed – enquiries related to terms or conditions of your lease, licences associated with your lease, boundary and title issues	6450 5540
Penny McLennan	Direct contact for properties listed – enquiries related to terms or conditions of your lease, licences associated with your lease, boundary and title issues	6450 5617
Susan Brown	Insurances, annual fire safety statements, balance sheets and financial statements	6450 5597
Carol Schubert	Annual Gross Receipts (AGR's), fire levy, accounts enquiries	6450 5619



The Property Services Unit (Left to right): Susan Brown, Karen Field, Marko Kovac, Carol Schubert and Penny McLennan (Photo: OEH Collection).

lodge contacts

Lease	SPO Responsible
Alexandra	Penny McLennan
Alpenhof (KAC)	Karen Field
Ambulance Station	Karen Field
Aurora	Karen Field
Australian Golf Club	Karen Field
Avalanche	Karen Field
Barina Milpara	Karen Field
Barrakee	Penny McLennan
Beachcombers	Penny McLennan
Ben Bullen	Karen Field
Boonoona (City Tattersalls Club)	Karen Field
Canberra Alpine	Penny McLennan
Chalet Sonnenhof	Penny McLennan
Chez Jean Apartments	Karen Field
Christina	Penny McLennan
Cooma	Penny McLennan
Corroboree	Karen Field
Cowra	Karen Field
Cronulla	Penny McLennan
CSIRO	Karen Field
Dianella	Penny McLennan
Dulmison	Penny McLennan
Edelweiss	Penny McLennan
Eiger Chalet	Karen Field
Eremo	Karen Field
Fire Station	Karen Field
Fjellheim	Penny McLennan
Geebung	Karen Field
Gunyah	Karen Field
Highway Alpine	Karen Field
Hus-Ski	Penny McLennan
Illabunda (Port Kembla Ski Club)	Penny McLennan
Kahane (Southern Alps Ski Club)	Karen Field
Kalymaro	Penny McLennan
Kandahar	Penny McLennan
Karralika	Penny McLennan
Kiandra Pioneer 1861	Karen Field
Kooloora (Harbord Diggers Club)	Karen Field
Kosciuszko Alpine Club	Karen Field
Kosciuszko Mountain Retreat	Karen Field
Kosciuszko Snow Revellers	Penny McLennan
Kunapipi	Karen Field
Ku-ring-gai	Penny McLennan
Lampada	Penny McLennan
Langlauf	Penny McLennan
Main Range Huts (The Chalets @ 1750)	Karen Field
Man from Snowy River	Karen Field

Lease	SPO Responsible
Maranatha (Thirroul)	Karen Field
Marritz Alpine Inn	Karen Field
Matterhorn	Karen Field
Mawabu	Karen Field
Merriment	Penny McLennan
Mirrabooka	Penny McLennan
Mulubinba (Shortland Alpine)	Karen Field
Munjarra	Karen Field
Narraburra	Karen Field
Nordic Shelter	Karen Field
Oldina	Karen Field
Orana	Penny McLennan
Parrawa	Karen Field
Peer Gynt	Penny McLennan
Perisher Creek Lodge	Penny McLennan
Perisher Huette	Karen Field
Perisher Manor	Penny McLennan
Perisher View (proposed site)	Penny McLennan
Redwood	Penny McLennan
Rock Creek	Karen Field
Royal Australian Navy (RAN)	Karen Field
Rugby	Karen Field
Salzburg	Karen Field
Ski Rider	Karen Field
Snowgums	Karen Field
South Perisher Alpine Club	Karen Field
Sponars Chalet	Penny McLennan
Sundeck	Penny McLennan
Sundowner	Karen Field
Swagman Chalet	Karen Field
Sydney	Penny McLennan
Tambaroora	Karen Field
Tarrowonga	Karen Field
Technology	Penny McLennan
Telemark	Penny McLennan
The Stables	Karen Field
Trissana	Penny McLennan
Ullr	Karen Field
University Alpine Club (UAC)	Karen Field
Valhalla	Karen Field
Waratah	Karen Field
Warrugang	Karen Field
Wirruna	Karen Field
Yalara (Public Service Officers)	Karen Field
Yaraandoo	Penny McLennan
Yeti	Karen Field

Many lodges in Kosciuszko National Park are celebrating their 50th anniversaries. The following lodge profiles are reprinted from the Perisher Historical Society newsletter.

Beachcombers



Right: The Beachcomber's anniversary sticker, created to commemorate 50 years, inspired by the old parka badge designed in the late 1960s.

Top left: Framework of Beachcombers Ski Lodge

Bottom left: Construction of Beachcombers Ski Lodge



Above: Beachcombers Ski Lodge, Perisher Valley
(All photos: Courtesy of Beachcombers Alpine Retreat Pty Ltd).

This hut's history starts with the enthusiasm for skiing of Rob Grantham. His first taste, at the runs at Sponars in 1953, started him on a path that led to the development of a lodge less than 10 years later. He was joined in this endeavour by his wife, Beverley, and his friends Carl Matthes, Carl Martin, Danny Thompson, Ian Boydell, Les Genner and their wives. Additional friends and friends of friends joined the group until there were 39 founding members. Application for a site was made to the Kosciuszko State Park Trust (KSPT) during the winter of 1959. In May 1960 they were notified that Site 12, was available for their lease. The intrepid Rob, Carl and Ian set off the very next day to inspect this offering. While Site 12 was adequate, they preferred Site 8, which had been allocated to a different lodge. Due to a technicality and following approval from the KSPT, they were allowed to take over the preferred site.

The Lodge, named Beachcombers by Eric Wright of Radio 2UE, was designed

by Ian Boydell to be very economical, with a maximum of 16 beds in self-contained rooms, with an additional toilet for visitors and to cater for the needs of those staying in the overflow or emergency accommodation in the loft. The construction was completed by 20 or so of the member families (and an intermittently reliable truck) in six months in order to be open for business in the winter of 1962.

The life of this Lodge so far has been characterised by family and community, with an atmosphere of generosity, sharing and taking turns with the necessities such as cooking and providing food. Renovations during the 1980s built two bedrooms, taking the total to six, and added a living room, extended the lounge room and rebuilt the kitchen. The family and community feel of this lodge was exemplified by the scattering of ashes of a young member who died well before her time but felt a special bond with the Beachcombers Lodge. It's a common desire amongst his

tight-knit community.

This Lodge began with a 'rule' that children couldn't go to the Lodge until they could 'tie their own boots, carry their own skis up the hill and shower at night on their own' which was usually at about 6 years of age. Now they are looking at welcoming their fourth generation. In due recognition of such a strong history held together, sometimes with araldite, over 50 years, many members will be gathering in Mudgee at founding member Bob Oatley's vineyard for a dinner including photographs and speeches. At least 10 founding members are expected to attend and an anniversary sticker has been created from the old parka badge designed in the late 1960s to commemorate this event.

The Beachcomber's anniversary sticker, created to commemorate 50 years, inspired by the old parka badge designed in the late 1960s.

Boonoona

The history of Boonoona Lodge is intimately entwined with that of the City Tattersall's Club. It began with a cooperative of City Tattersall's members formed in 1961. This co-op began with 33 members but grew to 80 before the Lodge opened in winter 1962. The cooperative and the Lodge were named Boonoona, an Aboriginal word for 'white ground' and a very apt name for a ski lodge. The directors elected at the formative meeting of the co-op were: Kevin Martin, Barry Nesbitt, Ted Helier, John Moore, Steve Parry, Russell Betts, John Williams and Barry O'Connor.

The Lodge initially consisted of a dining room and kitchen on the first floor, manager's quarters and two single bedrooms on the second floor and two larger rooms at the top of the stairs, one for men and the other for women. Members at this time were all male and for their 70 guineas fees and debentures they gained the

option for three bookings per season which could be spent as either three full weeks for a single member or one week for the member plus two guests. The cost for accommodation in 1962 was 18 guineas per week which would be approximately \$38 today.

In 1966 a resolution was passed by the City Tatts committee to purchase the assets of the Boonoona Ski Club co-op and retain it as an amenity for all City Tatts members. This cost the princely sum of 14,394 pounds and included an agreement to undertake extensions to the Lodge.

The intervening 50 years have been marked by triumph and tragedy. The managers of this lodge have played a significant role in the atmosphere and the Lodge's greatest tragedy occurred at the end of the 1962 season when then-manager Wally Fick died in a skiing accident. The triumphs have come from the impressive list of highly achieving athletes, in both

international and national arenas, predominantly for cross country skiing, amongst its members. This list includes Camille Melvey (over 20 national titles), David Hislop (1984, 1988 Olympics), Vladimir Skop and Chris Darlington. Alex Almoukov (2010 Olympics) and Lucy Glanville (Winter Youth Olympic Games 2012), members of the National Biathlon and Cross Country Teams, are the highest profile current members;

Boonoona's 50th birthday in 2011 marked another significant anniversary, namely the 30th anniversary of Jeff Davies as manager of the Lodge. He began as a single man in 1981 and has continued in the role, welcoming his (now) wife Lynette as chef in 1989 and then raising their daughters, Peta and Tory, within the Boonoona community. This double anniversary was celebrated with a function at the City Tattersall's Club in Sydney in May 2011 attended by over 175 past and present members.



*Boonoona - which means 'white Ground' in earlier days
(Photo: Courtesy of Boonoona Ski Lodge).*



Dulmison

In 1961 there was a shift in the means by which electricity was supplied to the Perisher Valley when power supply company Dulmison Australia installed a high voltage cable from Guthega Power Station to Perisher. A group of Dulmison employees quickly established the Dulmison Ski Club and Lodge, designed to provide enjoyment in the mountains at a reasonable cost to members, their families and their friends. In 1961, that membership subscription was \$140 and with 120 members and a bank loan, a small lodge was built.

Despite its modest size, Dulmison was big on service, being one of only a few clubs in the early sixties which operated with a lodge manager on hand to provide meals and basic servicing during the winter season.

In the years since, the building has been upgraded and extended four times. It now offers a mix of 20 ensuite beds and bunks with ample living facilities as well as the lodge manager's flat.



Hus-Ski

The building of Hus-Ski Lodge was overseen by Ronald Clinton but the work was mostly done by member volunteers led by Ron Inwood and Ian Ward. Ron and Ian were also the founding members of the Club with Bill Hargreaves and about 20 others.

When the lodge, which opened with the first paid visitors in 1961, was first constructed it was a small 12 person lodge known as the chook shed, partly thanks to its bright blue colour and the one way sloping roof. At that time it was approximately one third of its current size. A number of renovations have seen the lodge



Geebung

Named after the Banjo Paterson poem The Geebung Polo Club, this Lodge celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011. Its final design, by Mick Cox, was created within three weeks after the NPWS reviewed the lodge site and decreased its total dimensions by half. The three storey lodge (including the above-ground basement) was one of the last tall buildings allowed in Perisher Valley at that time. Although it would likely not satisfy today's safety requirements, it was warm and worked well for the residents, even if it did sway a little in blizzards and gales.

The most outstanding happening for the Lodge and its members, for all the wrong

reasons, was the razing of the Lodge to the ground in 1977. The fire took all of 20 minutes to completely destroy the building. Its timing was fortuitous though, as visitor changeover time meant most guests had already left or not yet arrived so no lives were lost and only one set of personal items was burnt. The replacement lodge was designed by Malcolm Stanton and built within six months, preventing the Club from missing a season on the snow.

The current directors include the son and granddaughter of the founding chairman of the Club - Hugh Hamilton - demonstrating the continued involvement of the original families and their descendants.



Hus-Ski Lodge circa 1963 (Photo: Courtesy of Hus-Ski Lodge).

grow in size and comfort although the number of beds hasn't changed. A contractor was employed to undertake the first renovation in the 1980s to satisfy the NPWS minimum bedroom specifications but all renovations since, including the beautiful bay window in 1996, were undertaken by Ian Ward. Ian remains an active member and is the current President.

The site for the Lodge was chosen by Neville Gare of the Kosciusko State Park Trust (KSPT) and the name was decided by a competition amongst the 25 founding members. The membership of this lodge has changed considerably

over the 50-odd years of its existence with a fair turnover of members. The original membership has grown to the approximately 100 members listed today and about eight of the original members still visit the Lodge from time to time although not necessarily to ski.

Highlights of the early days included the balls held in the Sky Lounge in Sydney, the home town of most of the members, even today. More recently Luke Hargreaves, a renowned Australian windsurfer, brought the Club into prominence when he won a professional ski race.



Mirrabooka

Mirrabooka was begun when two independent groups of employees of the NSW Lands Department (Goulburn and Sydney) learnt of each others interest in establishing a lodge. They combined forces, selected a site over the Easter Weekend of 1960 and incorporated the club on 1 February 1961.

Mirrabooka is a small family club lodge (12 beds), designed by Ernie and Lorna Phillips, who made use of their knowledge of an earlier lodge in the Perisher area. It originally consisted of 2x2 bunk rooms, 2x4 bunk rooms, 2 bathrooms, a living/dining/recreation room and a small kitchen upstairs plus a lobby, a drying room and ski room, food store and toilet downstairs.

It was built by a few stalwart volunteers from the original 68 members. Starting in January 1962, with the major construction work by H & H Constructions, the project was supervised by architect member David Hurley and, although tested in very rough camping conditions for a part of the '62 season, was first open for business for the 1963 season, making next year the official 50th anniversary. Mirrabooka's earlier neighbour Orana helped with accommodation during construction, a favour that was reciprocated quite soon whilst Orana rebuilt after a fire.

The granite facing to lower levels had to wait till 1967 and an external deck to the upper level was added in 1969. Minor changes and upgrades, mainly repairs to timber components and adding fire requirements, were made over the intervening years until the main area lease extensions were granted in 1995. Member levies and borrowings funded the main renovation in 1997 using Hal Pratt as architect and Trinder Alpine Constructions as builders. These works converted bunk rooms to bedrooms, adding two more bedrooms and a bathroom downstairs, filling in part of the unbuilt site, enlarging the kitchen and bringing the ski/drying rooms upstairs which effectively brought the entry to the upper level. Mirabooka remains a 12 bed lodge, 49 years after it was first built. Most memberships have been inter family transfers; membership is now 94 with several originals still skiing.

Tambaroora

The story of Tambaroora is linked to member Rory McDonald who has been going to the mountains since 1936 when he was a Scots College student. Later, while studying medicine, Rory joined a university alpine club - the Snow Revellers - and together with a few others, applied to build a lodge when land was opened up at Guthega. They missed out then but when Perisher was later opened up, their application proved successful, allocated by the then Parks Superintendent, Neville Gare.

Fifty members were gathered and a six bed, family-sized two-storey lodge was built with three bedrooms, a dining room, bathroom and kitchen upstairs; and one large room for the snow gear, a laundry and toilet downstairs.

The configuration and size remain unchanged.

Five families originally made use of the lodge in rotation and the majority of visitors these days are third generation members of those same families. Sitting quietly in the trees next to the Matterhorn, Tambaroora has escaped dramatic happenings during the last fifty years, holding itself in good shape thanks to volunteer maintenance (often Rory and sons).

As for the lodge's name, it comes from the Henry Lawson poem, Tambaroora Jim, about a bush publican who never turned away a hungry customer, until the bailiff closed him down. Tambaroora is named for his generosity.

Yaraandoo

Like many of the Perisher Valley lodges, Yaraandoo came into existence thanks to exposure to a wonderful landscape, good timing and the ability to pull together a group of like-minded and hands-on people. Graham French, who has been part of the story since the beginning, describes stumbling onto the Valley with his brother in the fifties and several years later joining a working party at the Technology Ski Lodge. Further exposure to the landscape through working with Kosciusko ranger Jim Govern firming up a plan - to form a community advancement society of 28 people with funds to build a lodge.

A committee was formed in 1960 which included Graham, Helen McGee, Monica and Wal Kelly, John Chalk, Ric Tanner and Alan Brady. Ultimately, a site was successfully located and secured, and a lodge built and club established which is remarkably similar in philosophy and practicalities to the original dream. In Graham's words, "I saw the club as both a skiing and bushwalking opportunity having very much a 'club' environment, with a building to be first built at minimum cost by members and one that would grow with the availability of funds and our future needs."

The striking design is Terry Dorrrough's, and it amply met the brief: to hold a total sleeping accommodation of 12 single bunk beds in two rooms, each with its own toilet and shower; for these bunk rooms to be located around a common living and dining area and kitchen; all in a building



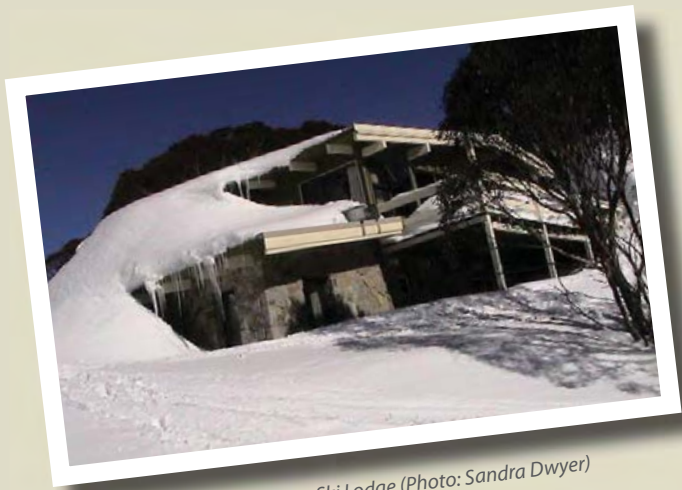
Yaraandoo during first stage construction 1962 (Photo: Courtesy of Yaraandoo Sk Lodge).

orientated to the north and horizontal to the natural site contours to allow sideways additions in the future.

The structure was also designed to minimise work on site and be built by unskilled members. Cut and built in Graham French's parents' back yard in Sydney, it was then collapsed and re-built on site. The design avoided excavating in and around granite, and the pay-off was speed, as the frames, footings, concrete wall and roof were put up by seven members in 10 days from arriving on site.

And as expected, there were many additions - a total of five with the most recent completed in 2005 - which progressively met the changing accommodation needs and improved comfort. Thanks to the foresight of the early committee members, the original format and footprint made the series of additions and tweaks relatively straightforward.

As for the name, Yaraandoo comes from Australian Legendary Tales by K. Langloh Parker: "The Southern Cross is known as Yaraandoo, the place of the white gum tree".



Fjellheim Ski Lodge (Photo: Sandra Dwyer)

A Golden Anniversary for our mountain home **Fjellheim**

by Sandra Dwyer (nee Cook)

2012 is a celebratory year for our Ski Lodge. We were delighted to gather our members for a function in late March to mark our 50th year. What a landmark for this Club, founded by a small group of keen skiers (Foundation Members) in the early 1960's, pioneers really, who funded the co-operative, determined the site, spent weekends travelling to the mountains during the early site and construction periods, and then brought their young families into the fold by instilling in them a love of skiing.

Our function saw a gathering of Foundation Members with their children and grandchildren – we even now have great grandchildren in the mix - a truly amazing testament to the strength and determination of every member to work together for the good of the Lodge and the sport of skiing. In our 50 years we have had only two Presidents and a handful of Secretary's – and we were fortunate to have our founding President, Hans Trumm, at our celebrations. Here are some excerpts from his speech on the night....

"Here is a wonderful sea of faces....

many of whom I met a little more than 50 years ago....one of my fellow Foundation Members, Philip Cook, had been staying in Orana and saw Hus-Ski being built, and said 'how do we do that?'. We investigated with NPWS and then set about gathering the ingredients we needed....to 'found' the Lodge we needed 30 members.... money and security for a loan to build the lodge....

"We have had a wondrous 50 years and I couldn't vision we would be here 50 years later gathered with our children and grandchildren. We built a wondrous Lodge and we have all had a great time there – we love the place dearly. Of course the most often asked question has always been – but how do you pronounce it? We decided to name the Lodge in the Scandanavian tradition not the Austrian tradition... and so after talking with the Norwegian Consul General he suggested Fjellheim - Mountain Home....(pronounced F-yell-hime)

"We are the greatest Lodge on the Mountain – administered by people who care and understand the importance of Club living and

belonging to a Co-operative.

As Foundation Members we were very proud to place that first peg in the ground and build a tradition."

Our state-of-the-art, cutting-edge Lodge opened for the 1962 season. We had such radical designs as individual bedrooms with one bunk bed (innerspring mattresses, no less), a common room, an electric kitchen, and male and female bathrooms. Founding member Jack Marvell was awarded the construction contract. Some 50 years later we have seen many refurbishments and we now enjoy king size beds with larger bedrooms, a larger common room and new larger kitchen facilities. Our club membership remains open only to those descendants of the original founding members, along with two new families who joined our 'family' in 2010. We remain a group of people firmly committed to providing a terrific, enjoyable place for skiers to enjoy their sport. So on the 31st March 2012, at Newport Surf Life Saving Club, our celebrations really felt like a gathering of relatives!

ResortRoundUP

Resort Round-up is a newsletter for the resorts community in Kosciuszko National Park. It contains a range of general interest articles, operational updates and key contacts for issues and projects across the resorts. A summer and winter edition is prepared each year and is available on the OEHS website or as an emailed PDF version.

Please email resortroundup@environment.nsw.gov.au if you wish to be included on the email distribution list. If you wish to contribute articles please contact Dave Woods (contact details on back page).

For current and back issues of Resort Round-up, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/NPWSResortNewsletters.htm



Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge

by Judy Thomson

A love of mountains and skiing aside, the origins of ski clubs are many and varied. Some clubs, such as Brindabella, begin with a bus; Ku-ring-gai emerged from a chance meeting on the steps of the New South Wales Public Library. Maurice Buckley, Paul Edwards and Robert Miller were enjoying a break from their late night studies and still reeling from the expense of a ski holiday at Thredbo organized by their Rover Crew in the winter of 1960, when the idea of a ski club with its own lodge was born. They decided that if skiing was to be affordable they should form a club and build their own ski lodge.

Over the summer these three made several trips to Perisher Valley and Smiggin Holes – always calling to see the Park Ranger, Jim Govern, and the Park Superintendent, Neville Gare – to obtain a site and ascertain the Trust's requirements for development. They looked at the available sites but one, alas already allocated, especially caught their imagination. After some smooth talking and a display of youthful enthusiasm, the favoured site was recalled and made available. That was, of course, the present site of Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge, without doubt, one of the best anywhere in the snowfields.

Plans were hurriedly prepared,

an estimate of cost obtained, arrangements for a loan negotiated and a prospectus drawn up and printed in record time.

Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge Co-operative Limited was incorporated on 22 June 1961 and then the hard sell began. The aim was to find 80 members, each contributing \$160, to provide the funds for construction and at the same time to meld together a band of volunteers to actually build the lodge. After months of haranguing friends and friends-of-friends, the 80 members (mostly students) were found and committed themselves to this huge personal expenditure.

The name 'Ku-ring-gai' was chosen, first because it indicated the source of the bulk of the membership and secondly because it recognized the club's beginning within the Second Gordon Rover Crew which was, at that time, in the Ku-ring-gai Scouting District.

The plans that had been prepared by several of the members were put into final 'shape' by a young member architect, Jeff Jonas, who also prepared the specifications for construction and called tenders for the foundations, frame work, roof and external cladding. It was decided that the members themselves would do the rest.

Work commenced just prior to Christmas, 1961, with a work party camped on the site to dig the septic and drainage trenches. The builders soon followed and then began the long task of the members finishing the building and furnishings between their studies and exams. Strangely, until many years later, the club did not have a single certified tradesman amongst its members.

The official opening of the Lodge by the Park Superintendent, Neville C. Gare, took place on the Queen's Birthday weekend, 1962, with the hut just weatherproofed but housing some 80 people.

Over the 48 years of the Club's existence the physical structure has been expanded and upgraded several times. There has been a transition of the membership from mostly single students to engaged and later married young couples, then young parents to the present, where we are now not-so-young parents watching our grandchildren growing up and showing us how to ski.

The original dream of good accommodation and skiing at an affordable price has been more than realized.



Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge under construction - Summer 1961-2



*Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge - Winter 1964
(All photos: Jeff Jonas)*



Ku-ring-gai Alpine Lodge - Summer 2012

staff contacts

Visitor and Business Services Section

Key Staff Contacts:

Manager, Visitor and Business Services Section
ANDREW HARRIGAN – Ph. 6450 5504
email: andrew.harrigan@environment.nsw.gov.au

Manager, Environmental Services Unit
MEGAN BENNETT – Ph. 6450 5607
email: megan.bennett@environment.nsw.gov.au

Environmental Liaison Officer
DAVE WOODS – Ph. 6450 5616
email: dave.woods@environment.nsw.gov.au

Environmental Management Officer (EMS)
VIRGINIA LOGAN – Ph. 6450 5612
email: virginia.logan@environment.nsw.gov.au

Environmental Management Officer
(Assessments Coordinator)
SHANE TRENGOVE – Ph. 6450 5543
email: lynda.weston@environment.nsw.gov.au

Environmental Management Officer
(Research and Monitoring)
MEL SCHRODER – Ph. 6450 5611
email: mel.schroder@environment.nsw.gov.au

Senior Environmental Health Officer
MARK NOLAN – Ph. 6450 5613
email: mark.nolan@environment.nsw.gov.au

Manager, Properties Services Unit
MARKO KOVAC – Ph. 6450 5502
email: marko.kovac@environment.nsw.gov.au

Manager, Municipal Services Unit
ANDREW LOGAN – Ph. 6457 4410
email: andrew.logan@environment.nsw.gov.au

Senior Engineer, Municipal Services Unit
RYAN PETROV – Ph. 6457 4411
email: ryan.petrov@environment.nsw.gov.au

Supervisor, Water and Wastewater
DAVID SCARLETT – Ph. 6457 4414
email: david.scarlett@environment.nsw.gov.au

Supervisor, Operations and Maintenance
STEVE HANSEN – ph. 6457 4413
email: steve.hansen@environment.nsw.gov.au



Contributions to Newsletter

Readers are invited to contribute to Resort Round-up. Please keep articles relevant to resort issues and to less than 300 words. If you would like more information about your contribution, please contact Dave Woods, Environmental Liaison Officer to discuss.

Non-credited articles by Environmental Services Unit.



**NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service**

NPWS Jindabyne Office

Ph. 6450 5555
Fax 6450 5530

NPWS Perisher Office

Ph. 6457 4444
Fax 6457 4455



**Office of
Environment & Heritage**
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service